

Ground-beetles (*Carabidae*), which form a very large family, the members of which resemble each other closely in general appearance, and, with few exceptions, are very hard to name correctly. Fig. 19 (*Harpalus caliginosus*) represents a common shape and the prevailing black colour; (fig. 20) the Bombardier beetle (*Brachinus*), so called from its remarkable power of discharging a very pungent fluid, accompanied by a slight report and some smoke-like vapour; this will stain the captor's fingers, and is evidently a means of defence against ordinary enemies; the head and thorax of this beetle are yellowish-red, and its wing-covers dark blue.



FIG. 19.



FIG. 20.

A large and handsome beetle of this family will also be occasionally met with—the Caterpillar-hunter—(*Calosoma calidum*), fig. 21. It is black, with rows of bright coppery spots on the wing-covers, and may be at once recognized from the figure. When handled it leaves on the fingers a persistent odour that is not very agreeable. With these ground beetles the collector is sure to find some very pretty silky-green specimens of medium size (*Chlenius sericeus*).



FIG. 21.

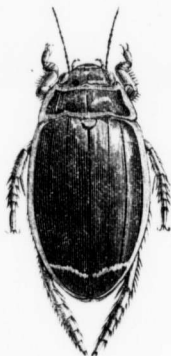


FIG. 22.

Let the explorer now turn to the water. In shallow ponds in fields and meadows, which dry up in summer, there will usually be found a variety of swiftly-swimming water-beetles; one of the largest, *Dytiscus Harrisii*, is shown in fig. 22. These are by no means easy to catch, but with a long-handled water-net one may have exciting sport and fair success. In the mud, or running over it, on the margins of pools and streams, many minute species of beetles will also be found.

The enthusiastic collector is not apt to be fastidious, and will not, therefore, hesitate to turn over horse and cow manure, under the masses of